

Remarks/Arguments:

These Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed September 30, 2004.

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search.

Claims 11 - 31 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. The Office Action rejected claims 11 – 31 under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting but indicated that these claims were otherwise allowed. This Response encloses a proper Terminal Disclaimer. No amendments are made to the claims or application are made herein. Accordingly, claims 11 - 31 are pending. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejection

In item 2 on pages 2 – 3, the Office Action rejected Claims 11 - 31 under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1 – 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,741,995, which issued from the parent application of the present Continuation Application. A proper Terminal Disclaimer is timely filed concurrently herewith in an Appendix A, starting on page 4 of this paper. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the nonstatutory double patenting rejection of Claims 11 – 31 has been overcome.


Allowable Subject Matter

In item 3, on pages 3 – 4, the Office Action indicates that claims 11 – 31 are allowed over the prior art of record. In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowed, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to the Account indicated on the accompanying FORM PTO-2038 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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